THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) During the year 1987, 188 searches under the Special Drives were conducted by the CBI on the residential/office premises of Central Government officials.

(b) A list showing the names and designation of officials involved is enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 46.)

During the course of searches, the following movable/immovable assets have been discovered:—

Movable assets: Rs. 184.90 lakhs

Immovable assets: Rs. 153.92 lakhs

Besides, a large number of incrimi--nating documents pertaining to transactions in movable/immovable assets and for showing undue official favours etc. were seized.

(c) 80 cases have been registered.

Commissions paid by TB Bofors

1209. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports and documents published in the Hindu dated the 22nd-23rd June, 1988 last and thereafter exposing the 'winding up' charges paid by AB Bofors as 'commissions' to General Anatronics and Svenska Incorporated revealing that payoffs were made right upto March, 1987;

(b) what was the party for whom Svenska and Moineau were a conduit and what was the role of the Hindujas in this affairs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Bofors have misled the Attorney General of India and thus defrauded the Parliament regarding the payoffs;

(d) if so, whether an FIR against Bofors has been filed and the other follow-up steps are being taken; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (e) The Government have seen the material published in The Hindu on June 22-23, 1988, purporting to relate to agreements concluded by M|s Bofors with certain foreign and Indian firms and the alleged payments made by them to these firms. Necessary investigations into the published material have already been ordered by the Government. The course of further action will be based on the results of the on-going investigations.

Newsitem captioned another defence Scandal

1210. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in 'Sunday' weekly dated 3rd—9th July, 1988 under the caption 'Another Defence Scandal' and what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to abolish the system of commission in various defence deals as promised by Government and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.